

Chief, Intelligence Information Staff, ORR 3 February 1958
ATTN : [REDACTED] 25X1A9a
THRU : Chief, Industrial Division, ORR
Acting Chief, Electrical Equipment Branch, ORR
25X1A2g
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REF : Memorandum from Chief, Contact Division, OO to Chief, St/I/RR, dated
23 January 1958

1. Information obtained from a US/USSR exchange of personnel associated with the production of electric batteries would be useful to the Electrical Equipment Branch. Although a wide array of detail on battery output and factor inputs in the Soviet battery industry would probably not be obtained, production experts from the Electric Storage Battery Company could be expected to provide a competent evaluation of the Soviet battery industry in qualitative terms, and could probably obtain some valuable specific detailed information if they were properly briefed prior to departure.
2. If possible, I/EE would prefer that the exchange encompass the whole range of battery production, rather than to be limited to only lead-acid storage batteries. The various types of primary alkaline and special types of cells are of interest because of their military applications. Although there is a remote chance of U. S. personnel being allowed in Soviet plants producing military batteries, it is still possible to assess the state of the art by observation of non-military products of the above general battery types. An industry-wide exchange would be most successful if all sectors of battery manufacturing were represented on the U. S. delegation.
3. An exchange limited to lead-acid storage batteries would still have much intelligence value. It is probable, however, that the Soviet delegates could learn much more from the U. S. than the U. S. delegates could learn from the USSR concerning advanced techniques of lead-acid battery production. The USSR, on the other hand, is estimated to be well advanced in the manufacture of alkaline batteries, and the U. S. delegates would probably score a net gain in this sector of the battery industry.

ORR/D/I/EE [REDACTED] esm/3697 (3 Feb 58)

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